RG104 Entry 235
Volume 085

December 10, 1897 – December 31, 1897
Letters Sent from Mint Headquarters

Fair copies of letters and telegrams sent from U.S. Mint headquarters to various official and individual recipients.

Some of these letters duplicate those of Entry 1, and others are responses to letters in those boxes or in Entry 229 “Letters Received.”

This is the final volume of fair copy letters in this series. Beginning with volume 86, only presscopies are available.

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December 10, 1897.

To the Honorable
Secretary of the Treasury.

Sir:

I have the honor to request that you will cause to be deposited in the Treasury of the United States in the name of Overton Cade, Superintendent, U. S. Mint at New Orleans, the sum of one hundred fifty-one thousand, one hundred and forty-one dollars and eighty-three cents, ($151,141.83) on account of profits on the coinage of silver bullion, purchased under the Act of July 14th 1890, and that the Bullion Fund of said Mint be increased by a transfer of the same amount.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

December 10, 1897.

Auditor for the
Treasury Department.

Sir:

I transmit herewith, for examination and settlement, the Salary, Contingent, Refinery & Coinage of Silver Bullion accounts of the Superintendent of the U. S. Mint at New Orleans, La. for the month ending November 30, 1897, rendered to me for the purpose of adjustment as required by law.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director.

Accounts sent Dec. 6, 1897.
" recd " 9, 1897.

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December 10, 1897.

To the Honorable
Treasurer of the United States.

Sir:

It is respectfully requested that a transfer be made from the Bullion Fund of the United States Assay Office at Boise to that of the United States Mint at Philadelphia, of the sum of Nineteen Thousand Four Hundred and Forty-four $\frac{66}{100}$ Dollars ($19,444.66) in Gold Coin, and One Hundred and One $\frac{98}{100}$ Dollars ($101.98) in Silver Coin, making a total of Nineteen Thousand Five Hundred and Forty-six $\frac{64}{100}$ Dollars ($19,546.64) being the net value of Bullion heretofore forwarded by the Assayer in charge of the United States Assay Office at Boise as shown by Memorandum No. 22, dated Dec. 7, 1897, of Gold Bullion deposited at said Mint.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

Similar letter except as noted, to same address:-

+ + + Mint at Denver + Mint at Philadelphia + One Hundred and Four Thousand Four Hundred and Sixty-nine $\frac{51}{100}$ + ($104,469.51) + One Hundred and Twenty-seven $\frac{89}{100}$ + ($127.89) + total of One Hundred and Four Thousand Five Hundred and Ninety-seven $\frac{40}{100}$ + ($104,597.40) + Bullion + Assayer in charge + United States Mint at Denver + Memorandum No. 55 + Dec. 4, 1897 + + + +

December 10, 1897.

Superintendent, U. S. Mint,
New Orleans, La.

Sir:

I have this day requested the Secretary of the Treasury to cause to be deposited in the Treasury in your name the sum of $151,141.83 on account of profits on the coinage of silver bullion purchased under the Act of July 14th 1890, and that the Bullion Fund of your Mint be increased by a transfer of the same amount.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

December 10, 1897.

Overton Cade, Esq.,
Supt. Mint U. S.,
New Orleans, La.

Sir:

I have examined and referred to the proper accounting officers of the Department for examination and settlement, your Salary, Contingent, Refinery & Coinage of Silver Bullion accounts for the month ending November 30, 1897, with my approval.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

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December 10, 1897.

W. J. Puckett, Esq.,
Assayer, U. S. Mint,
Denver, Colo.

Sir:

Deposit Memorandum No. 55, dated Dec. 4, 1897, of Gold Bullion forwarded by you to the United States Mint at Philadelphia, Shipment No. 55, dated Nov. 30, 1897, has been received and examined at this Bureau, and the gross value found to be $104,752.96; charges $155.56, and net value $104,597.40. For the latter amount a transfer has been requested from the bullion fund of your Institution to that of the United States Mint at Philadelphia.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

Similar letter except as noted, to:-
J. W. Cunningham, Esq.,
Assayer U. S. Assay Office,
Boise, Idaho.

Deposit Memorandum No. 22 + Dec. 7, 1897 +
+ Mint at Philadelphia, Shipment No. 22
+ Nov. 30, 1897 + + +
$19,599.32; + $52.68 + $19,546.64
+ + + + +

December 10, 1897.

Superintendent, U. S. Mint,
Philadelphia, Penna.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that the weight of the two special assay coins (silver dollars) from Delivery No. 228, was 411.78 grains and 411.07 grains. You will

observe that the latter was very close to the limit.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

December 10, 1897.

Herman Kretz, Esq.,
Superintendent Mint U. S.,
Philadelphia, Penna.

Sir:

The following coins, reserved at your Mint during the Month of December 1897, and forwarded to the Bureau of the Mint for special assay, have been received, viz:

2 Dimes	Del. 284 ,	.20
Total ,	,	$ .20

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

December 10, 1897.

Superintendent, U. S. Mint,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Sir:

Enclosed herewith find gold bracelets and pin for which I will thank you to remit the value to me by registered mail as early as convenient.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

December 10, 1897.

Superintendent, U. S. Mint,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Sir:

I enclose herewith gold button belonging to Mr. Eckells, Comptroller of the Currency, for which I will thank you to return me the value per registered mail as early as convenient.

This is Colorado gold.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

December 10, 1897.

Telegram Confirmed

Superintendent Mint U. S.,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Have Turner report here immediately as his services are required.

R. E. Preston,
Director, Mint.

December 10, 1897.

J. W. Cunningham, Esq.,
Assayer, U. S. Assay Office,
Boise, Idaho.

Sir:

Referring to your statement, Shipment No. 23, dated Dec. 4, of gold bullion to Philadelphia Mint, I would call your attention to a difference between the amount of charges $117.55 as reported on your statement and the actual footing $117.48.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

December 10, 1897.

To the
Civil Service Commission,
Washington, D.C.

Gentlemen:

The Superintendent and Coiner of the Mint of the United States at Philadelphia, with a view to promoting the efficiency of the service, have recommended that the position of Superintendent of Machinery be created, and requesting the appointment of Mr. Edwin S. Church to the same. There being no list of eligibles from which to select a person qualified for the position, the consent of the Civil Service Commission to the appointment of Mr. Edwin S. Church, as recommended, for a period of ninety (90) days, under the provisions of Section 12, Rule 8 of the Civil Service Rules, is requested.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

Approved:
L. J. Gage,
Secretary.

December 10, 1897.

Joseph W. Firebaugh, Esq.,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

You are hereby authorized and requested to proceed to New Orleans for the performance of the duty herein assigned.

To make a complete and accurate inventory of all furniture, machinery,

apparatus and supplies of every kind on hand at the Mint of the United States in that City. On the inventory you will note besides each article the condition of the same, whether good, fair or imperfect. To make this inventory will probably require a week or ten days.

You will exhibit this letter to the Superintendent of the Mint, who is hereby instructed to afford you every facility and assistance for the performance of the duty above named.

While engaged in this service your compensation will be at the rate of four dollars per day and your necessary traveling and subsistence expenses will be paid. I enclose herewith orders for transportation from Washington to New Orleans. After you have completed the duties above assigned you, you will be further instructed.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

December 10, 1897.

Jno. Gosselin, Esq.,
Napanoch, New York.

Sir:

In reply to your letter you are respectfully informed that assays of ores are made at the U. S. Assay Office at Charlotte, North Carolina, at a charge of three dollars for each assay.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

December 10, 1897.

Journal of Commerce
and Commercial Bulletin,
New York, N.Y.

Gentlemen:

If you will sign and return to this Bureau, the enclosed receipt for subscription to your Journal, a Disbursing Officer's check will be sent you immediately upon receipt of the same.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

December 11, 1897.

To the Honorable
Secretary of the Treasury.

Sir:

I have the honor to request that orders for transportation be furnished Joseph Firebaugh from Washington to New Orleans, payment for the same to be made from the appropriation for Contingent Expenses, U. S. Mint, New Orleans, fiscal year 1898.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

December 11, 1897.

To the Honorable
Treasurer to the United States.

Sir:

It is respectfully requested that a transfer be made from the Bullion Fund of United States Mint at Denver, to that of the

United States Mint at Philadelphia of the sum of One Hundred and Fifteen Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety-five $\frac{73}{100}$ Dollars ($115,995.73) in Gold Coin, and One Hundred and Forty-one $\frac{95}{100}$ Dollars ($141.95) in Silver Coin, making a total of One Hundred and Sixteen Thousand One Hundred and Thirty-seven $\frac{68}{100}$ Dollars ($116,137.68) being the net value of Bullion heretofore forwarded by the Assayer in charge of the United States Mint at Denver, as shown by Memorandum No. 56, dated Dec. 8, 1897, of Gold Bullion deposited at said Mint.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

December 11, 1897.

Auditor for the
Treasury Department.

Sir:

I transmit herewith for examination and settlement the Salary, Wages, Contingent and Refinery expense accounts of the Superintendent of the U. S. Assay Office at New York, N.Y. for the month ending November 30, 1897, rendered to me for the purpose of adjustment, as required by law.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director.

Accounts sent Dec. 7, 1897.
" recd " 8, 1897.

December 11, 1897.

W. J. Puckett, Esq.,
Assayer U. S. Assay Office,
Denver, Colorado.

Sir:

Deposit Memorandum No. 56, dated Dec. 8, 1897, of Gold Bullion forwarded by you to the United States Mint at Philadelphia, Shipment No. 56, dated Dec. 4, 1897, has been received and examined at this Bureau, and the gross value found to be $116,337.58; charges $199.90, and net value $116,137.68. For the latter amount a transfer has been requested from the bullion fund of your Institution to that of the United States Mint at Philadelphia.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

December 11, 1897.

Andrew Mason, Esq.,
Supt. U. S. Assay Office,
New York, N. Y.

Sir:

I have examined and referred to the proper accounting officers of the Department for examination and settlement, your Salary, Wages, Contingent and Refinery expense accounts for the month ending November 30, 1897, with my approval.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

December 11, 1897.

Herman Kretz, Esq.,
Superintendent Mint U. S.,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Sir:

The following coins, reserved at your Mint during the Month of December 1897, and forwarded to the Bureau of the Mint for special assay, have been received, viz:

2 S. S. Dollars	,	Del. 285	, 2.00
2 Dimes	,	" 286	, .20
Total	,		$2.20

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

Similar letter except as noted, to:-

Frank A. Leach, Esq.,
Superintendent Mint U. S.,
San Francisco, Cal.

2 Half Eagles	,	Del. 112	, 10.00
Total	,		$10.00

December 11, 1897.

J. W. Adams, Esq.,
Supt. Mint U. S.,
Carson, Nev.

Sir:

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your Salary, Wages and Contingent expense Accounts, with Abstracts and Vouchers, for the month ending November 30, 1897.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director.

Similar letter, except as noted, to:

over.

J. W. Cunningham, Esq.,
Assayer, U. S. Assay Office,
Boise, Idaho.

Salary, Wages and Contingent Expense

December 10, 1897.

Leonard Magruder, Esq.,
Assistant Assayer, U. S. Mint,
New Orleans, La.

Sir:

The stock of silver bullion on hand at the Mint at New Orleans having become exhausted by coinage, and the amount of gold bullion deposited at that Institution being only about $250,000. per annum, it has been decided by the Department to discontinue coinage operations at that Institution on the first proximo, and to make a complete settlement of the operative officers' accounts and adjusting all wastage. The operative officers will be instructed to deliver all bullion of every character to the Superintendent and I have selected yourself in company with Mr. Joseph Firebaugh to represent this Bureau at such settlement.

As all the gold and silver coin now on hand is in the course of being transferred to the Assistant Treasurer, it is not probable that you will have any coin to weigh. When you have completed the duties herein assigned you, you will report the result to this Bureau.

You will exhibit this letter to the

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Superintendent of the Mint who is directed to afford you all facilities for the performance of the duties assigned you.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

December 11, 1897.

Joseph Firebaugh, Esq.,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

Mr. Leonard Magruder, Assistant Assayer of the Mint at New Orleans, being perfectly familiar with the weighing of bullion and coin, I have authorized him, with your assistance to weigh such bullion as may be on hand at the Mint of the U. S. at New Orleans, on the first proximo, and to witness the deliveries by the Operative Officers in settlement, to the Superintendent. After you have completed these duties, you will return to Washington.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

December 13, 1897.

To the Honorable
Secretary of the Treasury.

Sir:

I have the honor to request that you will cause to be deposited in the Treasury of the United States in the name of Frank A. Leach, Superintendent of the Mint of the U. S. at San Francisco, the sum of one hundred and

eighty-four thousand, four hundred and sixty-three dollars and forty-three cents ($184,463.43) on account of profits on the coinage of silver bullion, purchased under the Act of July 14th 1890, and that the Bullion Fund of said Mint be increased by a transfer of the same amount.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

December 13, 1897.

Auditor for the
Treasury Department.

Sir:

I transmit herewith, for examination and settlement, the Salary, Wages and Contingent expense accounts of the Assayer in charge of the U. S. Assay Office at Helena, Montana, for the month ending November 30, 1897, rendered to me for the purpose of adjustment as required by law.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

Accounts sent Dec. 1, 1897
" recd " 6, 1897.

Similar letter except as noted, to same address:

+ + + Salary, Wages.
and Contingent expense + Assayer in charge
+ U. S. Mint at Denver, Colo. +
Month + November 30, 1897 +
+ + as required by law.

Accounts sent Dec. 6, 1897.
" recd " 9, 1897.

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December 13, 1897.

Superintendent, U. S. Mint,
San Francisco, Cal.

Sir:

I have this day requested the Secretary of the Treasury to cause to be deposited in the Treasury of the United States in your name the sum of $184,463.43, on account of profits on the coinage of silver bullion, purchased under the Act of July 14th 1890, and that the Bullion Fund of your Mint be increased by a transfer of the same amount.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

December 13, 1897.

W. J. Puckett, Esq.,
Assayer U. S. Mint,
Denver, Colo.

Sir:

I have examined and referred to the proper accounting officers of the Department for examination and settlement, your Salary, Wages and Contingent Expense accounts for the month ending November 30, 1897, with my approval.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

Similar letter, to:-

E. B. Braden, Esq.,
Assayer, U. S. Assay Office,
Helena, Montana.

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December 13, 1897.

Frank A. Leach, Esq.,
Superintendent Mint U.S.,
San Francisco, Cal.

Sir:

The following coins, reserved at your Mint during the Month of December 1897, and forwarded to the Bureau of the Mint for special assay, have been received, viz:-

2 Double Eagles	Del. 113	40.00
2 Eagles	" 114	20.00
Total		$60.00

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

Similar letter except as noted, to:-
Overton Cade, Esq.,
Superintendent Mint U.S.,
New Orleans, La.

2 Quar. Dollars	Del. 56	.50
Total		$.50

December 13, 1897.

Herman Kretz, Esq.,
Superintendent Mint U.S.,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Sir:

I transmit herewith the Assayer's report upon assay coins taken from the first and two subsequent deliveries in each week at your Mint during the Month of December 1897, and forwarded for test as prescribed by the Regulations.

The coins were found to be within the legal limits of tolerance.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston, Director, Mint.

Similar letters except as noted, to the following: over.

Frank A. Leach, Esq.,
Superintendent of the Mint,
San Francisco, Cal.

Overton Cade, Esq.,
Superintendent Mint U. S.,
New Orleans, La.

December 13, 1897.

Superintendent, U. S. Mint,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Sir:

I enclose herewith for the examination of yourself and the Coiner, a silver dollar which appears to have been struck at your Mint in 1880.

You will please return the coin after examination.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

December 14, 1897.

Auditor for the
Treasury Department.

Sir:

I transmit herewith for examination and settlement, the Salary, Wages and Contingent Expense accounts of the Assayer in charge of the Assay Office at Boise, Idaho, for the month ending November 30, 1897, rendered to me for the purpose of adjustment as required by law.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director.

Accounts sent Dec. 6, 1897.
" recd " 11, 1897.

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December 14, 1897.

J. W. Cunningham, Esq.,
Assayer, U. S. Assay Office,
Boise, Idaho.

Sir:

I have examined and referred to the proper accounting officers of the Department for examination and settlement, your Salary, Wages and Contingent Expense accounts, for the month ending November 30, 1897, with my approval.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

December 14, 1897.

Herman Kretz, Esq.,
Superintendent Mint U. S.,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Sir:

The following coins, reserved at your Mint during the Months of December 1897, and forwarded to the Bureau of the Mint for special assay, have been received, viz:

2 S. S. Dollars	Del 289	2.00
Total		$2.00

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

Similar letter except as noted, to:-
Frank A. Leach, Esq.,
Superintendent Mint U. S.,
San Francisco, Cal.

2 Eagles	Del. 115	20.00
2 Quar. Dollars	" 143	.50
Total		$20.50

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December 14, 1897.

Herman Kretz, Esq.,
Supt. Mint U. S.,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Sir:-

The Civil Service Commission has consented to the appointment of Edwin S. Church as Superintendent of Machinery at your Mint at a compensation of $6.00 per day, for a period not exceeding ninety days.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

December 14, 1897.

Frank A. Leach, Esq.,
Supt. Mint U. S.,
San Francisco, Cal.

Sir:

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your Salary, Wages, Contingent, Refinery and Coinage of Silver Bullion Accounts, with Abstracts and Vouchers for the months ending November 30, 1897.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director.

December 14, 1897.

Telegram Confirmed

Superintendent Mint,
San Francisco, Cal.

Treasurer has drawn upon you for half a million eagles, and quarter million dollars in half-eagles. Be prepared to pay orders promptly on presentation. Push your coinage of half dollars to the extent your

stock of bullion on hand for this purpose will admit of.

R. E. Preston,
Director, Mint.

December 14, 1897.

Andrew Mason, Esq.,
Supt. U. S. Assay Office,
New York, N. Y.

Sir:

George McLaughlin after considering the matter for several weeks, has declined to accept the position of Assistant Engineer, and I have made requisition upon the Civil Service Commission for a suitable man.

In regard to the melter, John W. Yerkes, who was until recently employed in the Mint at Philadelphia, is not only a good melter, but also a fair carpenter; he is a strong healthy man, and I believe would fill the requirements in every particular, and with your consent, I will ask for his reinstatement at Philadelphia, and immediate transfer to your institution as Melter and Carpenter.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

December 14, 1897.

Andrew Mason, Esq.,
Supt. U. S. Assay Office,
New York, N. Y.

Sir:

I will thank you to procure and forward

to me by tomorrow's registered mail for temporary use, the following foreign coins:-

France, 10 or 20 franc gold piece and 5 franc silver piece:
England, gold sovereign and silver shilling.
Germany 10 or 20 mark gold piece and 5- mark silver.

These coins or their value will be returned to you.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

December 14, 1897.

Journal of Commerce
and Commercial Bulletin,
New York, N.Y.

Sir:

I enclose herewith Check No. 741.605 dated Dec. 13th. 1897, issued by Thomas J. Hobbs, Disbursing Clerk, Treasury Dept. on the Assistant Treasurer of the U.S. at New York in your favor for $12.00 in payment of your account for subscription against this Bureau.

Please acknowledge receipt.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

December 15, 1897.

To the Honorable
Secretary of the Treasury.

Sir:

I have the honor to report that the appropriation for "Freight on Bullion between the Mints and Assay Offices of the United States", for the current fiscal year is exhausted, and to request that you will procure an appropriation from Congress

of twenty-five thousand dollars ($25,000.-) to supply the deficiency in the appropriation for freight on coin and bullion between Mints and Assay Offices for 1898.

This deficiency is due to the large amount of gold bullion now being deposited at the Mint at Denver, which it is estimated will amount to over $15,000,000, for the current fiscal year.

The deposits of gold bullion are also increasing at the Assay Offices at Boise, Idaho, and Helena, Montana, a part of the gold received from the Klondike being deposited at the last named Institution.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

December 15, 1897.

To the Honorable
Treasurer of the United States.

Sir:

It is respectfully requested that a transfer be made from the Bullion Fund of the United States Mint at Denver to that of the United States Mint at Philadelphia of the sum of One Hundred and Twenty-four Thousand Five Hundred and Seventy-nine $\frac{52}{100}$ Dollars ($124,579.52) in Gold Coin, and Two Hundred and Twenty-five $\frac{18}{100}$ Dollars ($225.18) in Silver Coin, making a total of One Hundred and Twenty-four Thousand Eight Hundred and Four $\frac{70}{100}$ Dollars ($124,804.70) being the net value of Bullion heretofore forwarded by the Assayer in charge of the United States Mint at Denver,

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as shown by Memorandum No. 57, dated Dec. 11, 1897, of Gold Bullion deposited at said Mint.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

Similar letter except as noted, to same address:-

+ + + Assay Office at Boise + Mint at Philadelphia + Thirty-six Thousand Two Hundred and Eighty-nine 30/100 + ($36,289.30) + Three Hundred and Twenty-nine 10/100 + ($329.10) + total of Thirty-six Thousand Six Hundred and Eighteen 40/100 + ($36,618.40) + Bullion + Assayer + United States Assay Office at Boise + Memorandum No. 23 + Dec. 10, 1897 + +

December 15, 1897.

W. J. Puckett, Esq.,
Assayer, U. S. Mint,
Denver, Colo.

Sir:

Deposit Memorandum No. 57, dated Dec. 11, 1897, of Gold Bullion forwarded by you to the United States Mint at Philadelphia, Shipment No. 57 dated Dec. 7, 1897, has been received and examined at this Bureau, and the gross value found to be $125,022.96; charges $218.26, and net value $124,804.70. For the latter amount a transfer has been requested from the bullion fund of your Institution to that of the United States Mint at Philadelphia.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

Similar letter except as noted to: over.

J. W. Cunningham, Esq.,
Assayer, U. S. Assay Office,
Boise, Idaho.

Deposit Memorandum No. 23 + Dec. 10, 1897 + Mint at Philadelphia, Shipment No. 23, + Dec. 4, 1897, + + + + $36,720.19; + $101.79, + $36,618.40. + + + + +

December 15, 1897.

Herman Kretz, Esq.,
Superintendent Mint U. S.,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Sir:

The following coins, received at your Mint during the Month of December 1897, and forwarded to the Bureau of the Mint for special assay, have been received, viz:

2 S. S. Dollars	Del. 290	2.00
4 Dimes	" 291 & 292	40
Total		$2.40

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

Similar letters except as noted, to the following:-

Frank A. Leach, Esq.,
Superintendent Mint U. S.,
San Francisco, Cal.

2 S. S. Dollars	Del. 144	2.00
Total		$2.00

Overton Cade, Esq.,
Superintendent Mint U. S.,
New Orleans, La.

2 Quar. Dollar	Del. 57	.50
Total		$.50

December 15, 1897.

E. B. Braden, Esq.,
Assayer U. S. Assay Office,
Helena, Montana.

Sir:

I return herewith your requisition for stationery, enclosed in your letter of the 8th instant, with the request to please furnish samples of envelopes requested, as well as the kind and name of pens.

Pyx envelopes are for use only in the coinage Mints for assay coins, and are not furnished assay offices.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

December 15, 1897.

Mr. J. G. Garrett,
Office of the Secretary of the Senate,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

At the request of Senator John T. Morgan of Alabama, I send you the following information:

Russia has not ceased to coin silver. It coined in 1894, silver to the amount of only $233,661. In 1895 it coined silver amounting to the value of $3,696,192; and in 1896 the large sum of $30,985,066. Russia is now coining silver to take the place of the small notes. The ratio in coinage between gold and silver in Russia is as 1 of gold to 15 1/2 of silver.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

December 15, 1897.

R. F. A. Penrose, Esq.,
Bullitt Building,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Sir:-

I will thank you to telegraph me upon receipt hereof, as to whether you have heard anything from Mr. Cheyney, as it is necessary that I should take immediate steps to secure someone to collect the statistics of the production of gold and silver in Arizona for the current calendar year.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

December 16, 1897.

To the Honorable
Secretary of the Treasury.

Sir:

I have the honor to report in compliance with your letter of the thirteenth instant, that the business of this office was not in arrears on the 30th day of November 1897.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

December 16, 1897.

To the Honorable
Treasurer of the United States.

Sir:

It is respectfully requested that a transfer be made from the Bullion Fund of the United States Mint at Denver, to that of the United

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States Mint at Philadelphia, of the sum of One Hundred and Twenty-six Thousand and Forty-three $\frac{90}{100}$ Dollars ($126,043.90) in Gold Coin and One Hundred and Ninety-eight $\frac{44}{100}$ Dollars ($198.44) in Silver Coin, making a total of One Hundred and Twenty-six Thousand Two Hundred and Forty-two $\frac{34}{100}$ Dollars ($126,242.34) being the net value of Bullion heretofore forwarded by the Assayer in charge of the United States Mint at Denver, as shown by Memorandum No. 58, dated Dec. 13, 1897, of Gold Bullion deposited at said Mint.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

December 16, 1897.

Auditor for the
Treasury Department.

Sir:

I transmit herewith for examination and settlement, the Salary, Wages, Contingent Refinery & Coinage & Sil. Bullion accounts of the Superintendent of the U. S. Mint at San Francisco, Cal. for the month ending November 30, 1897, rendered to me for the purpose of adjustment, as required by law.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director.

Accounts sent Dec- 1897.
" recd " — 1897.

December 16, 1897.

W. J. Puckett, Esq.,
Assayer U. S. Mint,
Denver, Colo.

Sir:

Deposit Memorandum No. 58, dated Dec. 13, 1897, of Gold Bullion forwarded by you to the United States Mint at Philadelphia, Shipment No. 58 dated Dec. 9, 1897, has been received and examined at this Bureau, and the gross value found to be $126,394.74; charges $152.40, and net value $126,242.34. For the latter amount a transfer has been requested from the bullion fund of your Institution to that of the United States Mint at Philadelphia.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

December 16, 1897.

Frank A. Leach, Esq.,
Superintendent Mint U. S.,
San Francisco, Cal.

Sir:

I have examined and referred to the proper accounting officers of the Department for examination and settlement your Salary, Wages, Contingent, Refinery & Coinage of Silver Bullion accounts for the Month ending November 30, 1897, with my approval.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

December 16, 1897.

Herman Kretz, Esq.,
Superintendent Mint U.S.,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Sir:

The following coins, reserved at your Mint during the Months of December 1897, and forwarded to the Bureau of the Mint for special assay, have been received, viz:

2 S.S. Dollars	,	Del. 293	, 2.00
2 Dimes	,	" 294	, .20
Total	,		, $ 2.20

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

Similar letter, except as noted, to:-
Frank A. Leach, Esq.,
Superintendent Mint U.S.,
San Francisco, Cal.

2 S.S. Dollars	,	Del. 145	, 2.00
Total	,		, $2.00

December 16, 1897.

Herman Kretz, Esq.,
Superintendent Mint U.S.,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Sir:

I transmit herewith the Assayer's report upon assay coins taken from the first and two subsequent deliveries in each week at your Mint during the Months of December 1897, and forwarded for test as prescribed by the Regulations.

over.

The coins were found to be within the legal limits of tolerance.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

Similar letter except as noted, to:-

Frank A. Leach, Esq.,
Superintendent Mint U. S.,
San Francisco, Cal.

+ + + +

+ November & December 1897 + +

December 16, 1897.

P. J. Minter, Esq.,
Assayer, U. S. Assay Office,
Deadwood, So. Dakota.

Sir:

Your requisition for funds to meet the expenses of your institution during the Month of December 1897, has been approved for the sum of $2,000.- payable from the following appropriations made for the support of your Office during the current fiscal year, viz:

Salaries,	1898	$2,000.
Wages of Workmen,	1898	
Contingent Expenses,	1898	

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

December 16, 1897.

Superintendent, U. S. Mint,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Sir:

In compliance with your request, I enclose

herewith statement showing the earnings, gains and expenses of the Mints for the fiscal year ended June 30th 1897. I am very sorry to hear that in the re-weighing of the dollars delivered by the Coiner, you are finding so many light pieces.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

December 16, 1897.

P. J. Miniter, Esq.,
Assayer, U. S. Assay Office,
Deadwood, South Dakota.

Sir:

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your expense account for the month of November, and to state that as made, it will require some changes. It is, however, retained in order that advances for December may not be disallowed.

Bills paid on account of salary and wages, as well as your traveling expense account, for $97.10, will be approved and allowed, but you must send in receipted vouchers covering the expenditures on account of contingent expenses, before they can be allowed.

A bill paid is not a voucher until it is receipted by the party to whom payment is made, and you must be careful to see that the party is duly authorized to collect and receipt for same, that is, that he is a member of the firm or an authorized attorney.

Bills for supplies should, in all cases,

be rendered in duplicate. The original to be filed with your account current to the Department with the price of each item plainly entered so as to admit of verification. The duplicate will be retained on your own files.

I have to-day requested the Secretary of the Treasury to cause to be advanced to you, the sum of $2,000.00 from your appropriation to meet your expenses during the current month. One thousand dollars of this amount to be placed to your credit with the Assistant Treasurer at Chicago, Ills. the remainder at Deadwood so that you can draw checks upon either at your convenience.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

December 16, 1877.

Hon. H. H. Bingham,
House of Representatives.

My objections for the establishment of assay offices either at Deadwood or other points are that they are expensive and from which the Government derives little revenue. Under the law the charges to be imposed upon deposits of either gold or silver are limited to the actual expenses of fitting the bullion for coinage or making fine bars of the same, and the further fact that all deposits of gold made at the western institutions, such as Denver, Boise, Helena and St. Louis, and which will be the case at Deadwood, the bullion is paid for and the expenses of transportation

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to the coinage Mints is thrown upon the Government. Very large amounts of gold bullion are now being deposited at Denver; fully $15,000,000. will be deposited at that Institution during the current fiscal year, and the cost to the Government of transporting the same to Philadelphia will be about $30,000.

It is expected that the Deadwood office will be opened for business about the first proximo or shortly after. The principal depositor will no doubt be a very large and wealthy mining company. The company will receive full value less the charges incident to fitting the bullion for coinage, and the expenses of transportation to a coinage mint will be paid by the Government. Of course you will understand that the charges for parting and refining and fitting the bullion for coinage is collected from the depositor, but the expenses of transporting it is not and I can see no reason whatever why the Government should not collect from the depositor of gold bullion, a sum sufficient to cover the cost of this transportation to the coinage mints.

The cost of maintaining the minor assay offices of the United States for the fiscal year 1897, was $84,604, while the earnings were only $23,303.

R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

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December 16, 1897.

Miss Mae M. Coughlin,
No. 510 Cleveland Avenue,
Chicago, Illinois.

Miss:

Your letter of the 13th instant, enclosing part of a mutilated one-dollar silver certificate, has been received and referred to the Treasurer of the United States.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

December 16, 1897.

Norman Knox, Esq.,
Woodlawn, Illinois.

Sir:

In reply to your letter of the 13th instant, you are respectfully informed that assays of ores are made at the U. S. Assay Office at Charlotte, N. C. at a charge of three dollars for each assay.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

December 16, 1897.

George W. Olney, Esq.,
Editor, "World's Almanac,"
P. O. Box 2297, New York.

Sir:

I have forwarded you under separate cover the information requested in your letter of November 22nd and

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December 15th, in page and galley proof.
This is the best I can do.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

December 16, 1897.

Hon. William E. Sewell,
United States Senate.

Sir:

I have received your letter of the 14th instant, and in reply, would state that upon examination of the records of this Bureau, it appears that Mr. P. McC. Dade of Trenton, New Jersey, was appointed by Supt. Townsend July 13th 1894.

Mr. Hines and Mr. Carter on February 5th and March 12th, 1897, by Superintendent Kretz. It is not the intention to fill the places of the parties recently removed at the Mint at Philadelphia by the appointment of others.

There is evidently some mistake in regard to Mr. Carter as the only person of that name is E. C. Carter, the father of Senator Carter of Montana. This gentleman has been provided for with a place in the Custom House at Philadelphia.

Should an opportunity occur to place Mr. Hines and Mr. McC. Dade, due consideration will be given their claims for reinstatement.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

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December 16, 1897.

Frank Williams, Esq.,
Britton, Texas.

Sir:

In reply to your letter of the 13th instant, you are respectfully informed that the total coinage of the three dollar gold pieces from 1854 to 1889, inclusive, was $1,613,379. Of this sum only $186,300 were coined at the Mint at San Francisco, the balance being coined at the Mint at Philadelphia; therefore the statement that these coins were not intended for general circulation, but simply for circulation on the Pacific Coast is incorrect.

No coins of the denomination of fifty dollars or twenty-five cents in gold, were ever authorized to be coined by law or struck at any of the Mints of the United States, but prior to the establishment of the Mint at San Francisco, discs of the value of fifty dollars were issued by private assayers, and some years later, small coins called "twenty-five and fifty cents" were issued by some jewelers. The twenty-five cent piece contained about six cents' worth of gold and the fifty-cent piece from twelve to fourteen cents worth.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

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December 17, 1897.

Auditor for the
Treasury Department.

Sir:

I transmit herewith, for examination and settlement, the Salary, Wages and Contingent Expense accounts of the Assayer in charge of the U. S. Assay Office at Deadwood, S. Dak. for the months ending November 30, 1897, rendered to me for the purpose of adjustment, as required by law.

Note recommendation as to suspension on account of Contingent expenses.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director.

Accounts sent Dec. 1, 1897.
" recd " 6, 1897.

December 17, 1897.

P. J. Miniter, Esq.,
Assayer, U. S. Assay Office,
Deadwood S. Dak.

Sir:

I have examined and referred to the proper accounting officers of the Department for examination and settlement, your Salary, Wages & Contingent Expense accounts for the month ending November 30, 1897, with my approval, except the account for Contingent expenses which is without vouchers, except one for Trav. Ex. for $97.10, which is approved, the balance of the account I recommend to be suspended, for file of the necessary vouchers.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

December 17, 1897.

Frank A. Leach, Esq.,
Superintendent Mint U.S.,
San Francisco, Cal.

Sir:

The following coins, received at your Mint during the Month of December 1897, and forwarded to the Bureau of the Mint for special assay, have been received, viz:

2 S. S. Dollars	Del. 146	2.00
Total		$2.00

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

Similar letter except as noted, to:-

Overton Cade, Esq.,
Superintendent Mint U.S.,
New Orleans, La.

2 S. S. Dollars	Del. 58	2.00
Total		$2.00

December 17, 1897.

Herman Kretz, Esq.,
Superintendent, U.S. Mint,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Sir:

I have to call your attention to the weight of the special assay coins from deliveries No. 285-289-290 and 293, forwarded to this Bureau, viz:

			Weight.	Weight.
Dec. 10,	Del. No.	285	411.10	411.86
Dec. 13,	"	" 289	411.48	411.26
Dec. 14,	"	" 290	411.30	413.02
Dec. 15,	"	" 293	413.15	413.09

You will observe this will average nearly

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two grains from standard, which is too great a divergence. I will thank you to call the attention of the Coiner to this matter, and see that steps are taken to remedy the evil.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

December 17, 1897.

Superintendent, U. S. Mint,
San Francisco, Cal.

Sir:

I enclose herewith the certificate of the Civil Service Commission certifying to eligibility of William M. Sullivan, who passed the examination for skilled laborer, he being the only person, examined so far by the Commission, that has had experience as a cutter. If Mr. Sullivan is not satisfactory to you, please state the fact, and return the certificate which I enclose for your information with Mr. Sullivan's examination papers, which you will return to this Bureau after inspection.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

November 17, 1897.

E. B. Braden, Esq.,
Assayer U. S. Assay Office,
Helena, Montana.

Sir:

Referring to your letter of Dec. 10th, I have to say that the approval of the Bureau

of the transfer of C. B. Hoyt to your office, vice, Merritt A. Martin transferred, was mailed to you under date of December 6th last. His oath bearing date of the 1st instant is on file in this Bureau.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director.

December 17, 1897.

Guy Bryan, Esq.,
Assayer, U. S. Assay Office,
St. Louis, Mo.

Sir:

In accordance with the information contained in your letter of the 15th instant, Certificate of Deposit No. 2248 for $1.25, being on account of Sale of Old Material has been received from the Secretary of the Treasury, properly indorsed, and returned to this office.

No personal credit to be given you in your bullion accounts and the amount covered into the Treasury as a miscellaneous receipt.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

December 17, 1897.

Telegram Confirmed.

C. S. Platt,
29 Gold Street, New York.

Coins can be struck at Philadelphia Mint.
R. E. Preston,
Director of Mint.

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December 17, 1897.

Hon. Boise Penrose,
United States Senate.

Sir:

Your letter of the 13th instant, in reference to the retention of James E. McLean, received, and in reply you are respectfully informed that I know of no reason why Mr. McLean should not be retained in the service so long as he performs his duty as heretofore.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

December 17, 1897.

R. P. Rothwell,
253 Broadway, New York.

Telegram Confirmed.

Will send you information as far as compiled by to-day's mail. It is however incomplete.

R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

December 17, 1897.

R. P. Rothwell, Esq.,
253 Broadway,
New York City.

Sir:

In further reply to your request of November 22, I send you herewith a statement giving all the information obtainable covering the inquiries contained in your letter of the above date as well as that of 30th ultimo and also of the 1st instant.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston
Director of the Mint.

December 17, 1897.

Henry Groesbeck, Esq.,
No. 710 Market Street,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Sir:

When the balances ordered are ready for shipment to Deadwood you will please pack them securely and forward them to the U. S. Assay Office at Deadwood by fast freight, taking care to secure lowest through rates.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

December 18, 1897.

Auditor for the
Treasury Department.

Sir:

I transmit herewith for examination and settlement, the Salary, Wages, & Contingent expense accounts of the Superintendent of the U. S. Mint at Carson, Nevada, for the month ending November 30, 1897, rendered to me for the purpose of adjustment as required by law.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director.

Accounts sent Dec. 6, 1897
" recd " 11, 1897.

December 18, 1897.

J. W. Adams, Esq.,
Supt. Mint U. S.,
Carson, Nev.

Sir:

I have examined and referred to the proper

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accounting officers of the Department for examination and settlement, your Salary, Wages & Contingent Expense accounts for the Months ending November 30, 1897, with my approval.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

December 18, 1897.

Herman Kretz, Esq.,
Supt. U. S. Mint,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Sir:

I return herewith your stationery requisition with the request to please insert the number of employes in your Mint and to supply sample of letter paper required.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

December 18, 1897.

Andrew Mason, Esq.,
Supt. U. S. Assay Office,
New York, N. Y.

Sir:

I return herewith, per registered mail, the coins enclosed in your letter of the 15th instant.

I will thank you to tender to Messrs. Handy & Harmon my thanks for the use of the same.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

December 18, 1897.

Joseph Wharton, Esq.,
No. 206 Philadelphia Bank Building,
Philadelphia, Penna.

Sir:

In compliance with your request of the 17th instant, I enclose herewith a statement of the several types of minor coins, issued, remelted and outstanding, June 30th 1897.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

P. S. The letter of Mr. Stone, enclosed by you is returned herewith.

Types of Minor Coins Issued.

Denominations	Coined	Remelted	Outstanding June 30, 1897
Copper Cents.	$1,562,887.44	$378,409.93	$1,184,477.51
Copper half-cents.	39,926.11	— —	39,926.11
Copper nickel-cents.	2,007,720.00	787,330.73	1,220,389.27
Bronze cents.	8,448,250.48	82,522.82	8,365,727.66
Bronze 2-cent pieces.	912,020.00	334,575.70	577,444.30
Nickel 3-cent pieces.	905,768.32	266,459.62	639,308.70
Nickel 5-cent pieces.	14,926,044.75	792,578.60	14,133,466.15
Total	$28,802,617.30	$2,641,877.40	$26,160,739.90

December 18, 1897.

Julius Kimble, Esq.,
Bloomingdale, Michigan.

Sir:

In reply to your letter you are respectfully informed that the Government does not receive Mexican dollars, and your only way of disposing of these dollars would be for

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you to sell them to a bullion dealer at the current market price for silver.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

December 18, 1897.

Thomas Ray, Esq.,
~~Ridgway~~, Penna.

Sir:

In reply to your letter of the 12th instant, you are respectfully informed that assays of ores for gold and silver are made at the U. S. Assay Office at Charlotte, North Carolina, at a charge of three dollars for each assay.

You could no doubt have an assay of mica made in the laboratory at Columbia College New York, or by Professor Monroe at Columbia College, Washington, D.C. As to what the charges would be I am unable to inform you.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

December 18, 1897.

Hon. C. W. Stone,
Chairman, Committee, Coinage, Weights & Measures,
House of Representatives.

Sir:

Will you kindly furnish me with a copy of the paper from the Italian Government, giving the cost of their nickel coins, and oblige,

Yours truly,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

December 18, 1897.

R. P. Rothwell, Esq.,
253 Broadway,
New York, N. Y.

Sir:

Referring to your recent letter requesting statement of imports of gold and silver from January 1 to October 31, 1897. I would call your attention to a publication "Monthly Summary of Finance and Commerce of the United States, No. 4, Series 1897-98" issued by the "Bureau of Statistics" of this Department in which will be found the information in full and upon application to that Bureau a copy may be procured.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

December 18, 1897.

Wm. Charles Lay,
Secretary & Treasurer,
The Whalen Cons'd Copper Mining Co.,
Chicago, Ills.

Dear Sir:

In answer to your communication of the 14th instant, I enclose a table giving the production of gold and silver in the State of Nevada since 1848.

The product of copper and lead I am unable to give.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

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December 20, 1897.

To the Honorable

Treasurer of the United States.

Sir:

It is respectfully requested that a transfer be made from the Bullion Fund of the United States Assay Office at Helena, to that of the United States Mint at Philadelphia, of the sum of Sixty-eight Thousand Three Hundred and Sixty-Two $\frac{77}{100}$ Dollars ($68,362.77) in Gold Coin, and Six Hundred and Thirty-four $\frac{11}{100}$ Dollars ($634.11) in Silver Coin, making a total of Sixty-eight Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety-six $\frac{88}{100}$ Dollars ($68,996.88) being the net value of Bullion heretofore forwarded by the Assayer in charge of the United States Assay Office at Helena, as shown by Memorandum No. 24 dated December 16, 1897 of Gold Bullion deposited at said Mint

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

December 20, 1897.

Auditor for the

Treasury Department.

Sir:

I transmit herewith, for examination and settlement, the Salary, Wages & Contingent Expense accounts of the Assayer in charge of the U. S. Assay Office at St. Louis, Mo. for the month ending November 30, 1897, rendered to me for the purpose of adjustment, as required by law.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director.

Accounts sent Dec. 6, 1897
" recd " 9, 1897.

December 20, 1897.

E. B. Braden, Esq.,
Assayer U. S. Assay Office,
Helena, Montana.

Sir:

Deposit Memorandum No. 24, dated Dec. 16, 1897, of Gold Bullion forwarded by you to the United States Mint at Philadelphia, Shipment No. 24, dated Dec. 11, 1897, has been received and examined at this Bureau, and the gross value found to be $69,181.67; charges $184.79, and net value $68,996.88. For the latter amount a transfer has been requested from the bullion fund of your Institution to that of the United States Mint at Philadelphia.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

December 20, 1897.

Guy Bryan, Esq.,
Assayer U. S. Assay Office,
St. Louis Mo.

Sir:

I have examined and referred to the proper accounting officers of the Department, for examination and settlement, your Salary, Wages & Contingent expense accounts, for the Month ending November 30, 1897, with my approval.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

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December 20, 1897.

Frank A. Leach, Esq.,
Superintendent Mint U. S.,
San Francisco, Cal.

Sir:

The following coins, received at your Mint during the Month of December, 1897, forwarded to the Bureau of the Mint for special assay, have been received, viz:

4 S. S. Dollars	Dels. 147 & 148	4.00
	Total	$4.00

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

Similar letter, except as noted, to:-
Overton Cade, Esq.,
Superintendent Mint U. S.,
New Orleans, La.

2 S. S. Dollars	Del. 59	2.00
	Total	$2.00

December 20, 1897.

Herman Kretz, Esq.,
Superintendent, U. S. Mint,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Sir:

Your letter of the 18th instant, enclosing bids received for one hundred and forty (140) barrels of Melter & Refiner's Sweeps received. The bids are returned herewith, and you are authorized to reject the same, as being too low.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

December 20, 1877.

Guy Bryan, Esq.,
Assayer, U. S. Assay Office,
St. Louis, Mo.

Sir:

The enclosed duplicate of bill paid in your account current of Contingent expenses for the month of November, is returned for file with the returned papers of your office to which it pertains, the original only being necessary to the account.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

December 20, 1877.

P. G. Miniter,
Assayer U. S. Assay Office,
Deadwood, So. Dakota.

Sir:

I enclose herewith the account of the Orr & Lees Machine Co., for one bronze melting furnace, and one geared rolling mill, shipped you, amounting in the aggregate to $225. the same being receipted in duplicate.

Upon receipt of these articles you will please forward the Orr & Lees Machine Co., a draft on the Assistant Treasurer at Chicago, for the amount due, viz: $225.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

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December 20, 1897.

Mrs. Frank Henderson,
Kansas City, Missouri.

Madam:

In compliance with the request contained in your letter of the fourteenth instant, I enclose herewith list giving the prices of medals sold at the Mint at Philadelphia.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

December 20, 1897.

Orr & Hess Machine Co.,
No. 2321 Vine Street,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Gentlemen:

Your account for assay melting furnace and geared rolling mill, shipped the U. S. Assay Office at Deadwood, South Dakota, has been received and forwarded to the Assayer in Charge of that Institution, with instructions to remit you a draft for the amount, $225.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

December 21, 1897.

Herman Kretz, Esq.,
Superintendent Mint U. S.,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Sir:

The following coins received at at your Mint during the Month of December 1897, and forwarded to the Bureau

of the Mint for special assay, have been received, viz:

2 Half Dollars	Del. 301	1.00
2 Dimes	" 302	.20
Total		$1.20

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

Similar letter except as noted, to:-
Frank A. Leach, Esq.,
Superintendent Mint U.S.,
San Francisco, Cal.

2 Double Eagles	Del. 116	40.00
Total		$40.00

December 22, 1897.

To the Honorable
Treasurer of the United States.

Sir:

It is respectfully requested that a transfer be made from the Bullion Fund of the United States Mint at Denver, to that of the United States Mint at Philadelphia, of the sum of One Hundred and Twenty-five Thousand and Ninety $\frac{49}{100}$ Dollars ($125,090.49) in Gold Coin, and Three Hundred and Twenty-six $\frac{60}{100}$ Dollars ($326.60) in Silver Coin, making a total of One Hundred and Twenty-five Thousand Four Hundred and Seventeen $\frac{09}{100}$ Dollars ($125,417.09) being the net value of Bullion heretofore forwarded by the Assayer in charge of the United States Mint at Denver as shown by Memorandum No. 59, dated Dec. 17, 1897, of Gold Bullion deposited at said Mint.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston, Director of Mint.

Similar letters except as noted, to same address: over.

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+ + Assay Office at Charlotte
+ Mint at Philadelphia + Sixteen Thousand
Three Hundred and Seventy 54/100 + ($16,370.54) +
Twenty-four 22/100 + ($24.22) + Sixteen Thousand
Three Hundred and Ninety-four 76/100 + ($16,394.76)
+ Bullion + Assayer + Assay Office at Charlotte
+ Memorandum No. 17 + Dec. 14, 1897 + +

+ + Assay Office at Boise +
Mint at Philadelphia + Ten Thousand Eight
Hundred and Forty-four 03/100 + ($10,844.03) +
Forty-three 27/100 + ($43.27) + total of Ten
Thousand Eight Hundred and Eighty-seven 30/100
+ ($10,887.30) + Bullion + Assayer +
Assay Office at Boise + Memorandum No. 24
+ Dec. 17, 1897 + + +

December 23, 1897.

To the Honorable

Treasurer of the United States.

Sir:

It is respectfully requested that the Bullion Fund of the United States Mint at Denver be increased in the sum of Five Hundred Thousand Dollars ($500,000.-) by a transfer of that amount in lawful money and that the same be placed to the credit of the Assayer in charge of said institution with the Assistant Treasurer U. S. at Chicago, by wire.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

December 22, 1897.

Auditor for the
Treasury Department.

Sir:

I transmit herewith, for examination and settlement, the bullion accounts of the Superintendent of the U. S. Mint at Philadelphia for the Quarter ending Sept. 30, 1897, rendered to me for the purpose of adjustment as required by law.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director.

Accounts forwarded Oct. 29, 1897.
" received " 30, 1897.

December 22, 1897.

W. J. Puckett, Esq.,
Assayer, U. S. Mint,
Denver, Colo.

Sir:

Deposit Memorandum No. 59, dated Dec. 17, 1897, of Gold Bullion forwarded by you to the United States Mint at Philadelphia, Shipment No. 59 dated Dec. 13, 1897, has been received and examined at this Bureau, and the gross value found to be $125,639.35; charges $222.26, and net value $125,417.09. For the latter amount a transfer has been requested from the bullion fund of your Institution to that of the United States Mint at Philadelphia.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

Similar letters, except as noted, to the following:

over.

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W. S. Clanton, Esq.,
Assayer U. S. Assay Office,
Charlotte, N. C.

Deposit Memorandum No. 9 + Dec. 17, 1897
+ Mint at Philadelphia, Shipment No. 9
+ Dec. 14, 1897 + + +
$16,435.89; charges $41.13, + $16,394.76.
+ + + + +

E. W. Cunningham, Esq.,
Assayer U. S. Assay Office,
Boise, Idaho.

Deposit Memorandum No. 24 + Dec. 17, 1897,
+ Mint at Philadelphia, Shipment No. 24
+ Dec. 11, 1897, + + +
$10,916.17; + $28.87, + $10,887.30
+ + + + +

December 22, 1897.

W. J. Puckett, Esq.,
Assayer, U. S. Mint,
Denver, Colo.

Sir:

I have requested that the Bullion Fund of your institution be increased by a transfer of Five Hundred Thousand Dollars ($500,000.-) and that the same be placed to the credit with the Assistant Treasurer of the United States at Chicago, by wire.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

December 22, 1897.

Herman Kretz, Esq.,
Superintendent Mint U. S.,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Sir:

The following coins, reserved at your Mint during the Month of December 1897, and forwarded to the Bureau of the Mint for special assay, have been received, viz:-

2 S. S. Dollars	,	Del. 303	, 2.00
2 Dimes	,	" 304	, .20
Total	,		, $2.20

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

Similar letter except as noted, to:-
Frank A. Leach, Esq.,
Superintendent Mint U. S.,
San Francisco, Cal.

2 Double Eagles	,	Del. 117	, 40.00
Total	,		, $40.00

December 22, 1897.

Superintendent Mint U. S.,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Sir:

I transmit herewith the Assayer's report upon assay coins taken from the first and two subsequent deliveries in each week at your Mint during the Month of December 1897, and forwarded for test as prescribed by the Regulations.

The coins were found to be within the legal limits of tolerance.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

Similar letters to the following:-

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Superintendent Mint U. S.,
San Francisco, Cal.

Superintendent Mint U. S.,
New Orleans, La.

December 22, 1897.

Herman Kretz, Esq.,
Supt. Mint U. S.,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Sir:

I have examined and referred to the proper accounting officers of the Department for examination and settlement, your bullion accounts, for the quarter ending September 30, 1897, with my approval.

Please note the following errors: page 9, gold deposit, assay number 645, alloy charge should be 4¢ less, and toughening charge 4¢ more. Page 7, re-deposits, addition of "melting charge" should be 128.58 instead of $129.58, and the addition of "alloy charge" on page 8 should be $133.37 instead of 132.37. Please correct these errors in the present quarters accounts.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

December 22, 1897.

Superintendent, U. S. Mint
San Francisco, Cal.

Sir:

The per diem compensation paid employes at your Mint is much higher than that paid at the Mint at Philadelphia, to persons occupying

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similar positions, and performing the same service, and the Department has therefore decided that the compensations to be paid at your Mint from and after the first proximo, to per diem employes, be as follows:-

General Department.

Designation.	Salary to be paid.
Office Clerk	$3.00 per diem
Chief Engineer	5.00 "
Supervisor of Deposit Melting	5.00 "
Adjuster of Weights & Scales	4.00 "
Storekeeper	3.00 "
Assistant to Bookkeeper	3.00 "
Captain of the Watch	3.50 "
Weigher & Sealer	3.50 "
Clerk to Chief Clerk	4.00 "
Machinist	3.50 "
Blacksmith	3.50 "
Porter	2.75 "
Carpenter	4.00 "
Fireman	2.75 "
Workman	3.00 "
Assistant to Chief Clerk	3.50 "
Custodian of Cabinet	3.00 "
Clerk in Cabinet	3.00 "
Memorandum Clerk	4.00 "
Assistant Engineer	4.00 "
Messenger	2.75 "
Doorkeeper	2.75 "
Conductors & Janitors	2.75 "
Outside Watch	2.75 "
Helpers	3.00 "
Workmen	2.75 "

over.

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Assayer's Department.

Assayer	$5.00	per diem
Assistant Cupeller	3.50	"
Dissolvers	3.50	"
Weigher	4.50	"
Assistant Weigher	4.00	"
Sampler	3.50	"
Foreman	5.00	"

Melter's & Refiner's Department.

Clerks	$ 5.00	"
Gold Ingot Melter	5.00	"
Silver Ingot Melter	4.00	"
Sweep Cellar	4.00	"
Foreman of Refinery	5.00	"
Deposit Melters	3.25	"
Fin Gold Boilers	3.00	"
Silver Reducer	3.25	"
Assistant in Refinery	4.00	"
Granulation Melter	3.25	"
Helpers	3.00	"
Plumbers	4.00	"
In Charge, Hydraulic Press.	4.00	"
In Charge, Precipitating Tanks	4.00	"

Coiner's Department.

Coiner's Clerk	$5.00	"
Chief of Adjusters	5.00	"
Foreman of Press Room	5.00	"
Assistant Foreman of Press Room	3.75	"
" " Rolling Room	3.75	"
" " Annealing Room	3.75	"
" " Whitening Room	3.75	"
Weigher	4.00	"
Assistant Weigher	3.50	"
Cutters	3.00	"

over

Whiteners	$ 3.50 per diem
Workmen	3.00 "
Machinist	3.50 "
Adjusters	2.25 "
Assistant Foreman, Coining Room	3.75 "

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

Approved
L. J. Gage,
Secretary.

December 23, 1897.

To the Honorable
Secretary of the Treasury.

Sir:

I have the honor to hand you herewith my report upon the Production of Gold and Silver in the United States, for the calendar year 1896, together with that of other countries, compiled from official information, furnished by Foreign Governments and other reliable sources.

The statistics of the output of the precious metals in the United States and foreign countries, compiled by this Bureau, are looked upon, not only in America, but in Europe as well, as the most authentic published. In view of this fact, unusual care has been taken in the preparation of the data relating to the World's yield of gold and silver for 1896.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

December 23, 1897.

To the Honorable

Treasurer of the United States

Sir:

It is respectfully requested that a transfer be made from the Bullion Fund of the United States Mint at Denver, to that of the United States Mint at Philadelphia of the sum of One Hundred and Twenty-seven Thousand Seven Hundred and Fifty-three $\frac{83}{100}$ Dollars ($127,753.83) in Gold Coin, and One Hundred and Eighty-six $\frac{59}{100}$ Dollars ($186.59) in Silver Coin, making a total of One Hundred and Twenty-seven Thousand Nine Hundred and Forty $\frac{42}{100}$ Dollars ($127,940.42), being the net value of Bullion heretofore forwarded by the Assayer in charge of the United States Mint at Denver, as shown by Memorandum No. 60, dated Dec. 20, 1897, of Gold Bullion deposited at said Mint.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

December 23, 1897.

Auditor for the

Treasury Department.

Sir:

I transmit herewith, for examination and settlement, the bullion accounts of the Superintendent of the Mint at San Francisco, for the Quarter ending Sept. 30, 1897, rendered to me for the purpose of adjustment as required by law.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director.

Accounts forw'd Oct 19, 1897.
" rec'd " 26, 1897.

December 23, 1897.

W. J. Puckett, Esq.,
Assayer, U. S. Mint,
Denver, Colo.

Sir:

Deposit Memorandum No. 60, dated Dec. 20, 1897, of Gold Bullion forwarded by you to the United States Mint at Philadelphia, Shipment No. 60 dated Dec. 16, 1897, has been received and examined at this Bureau, and the gross value found to be $128,107.38; charges $166.96, and net value $127,940.42. For the latter amount a transfer has been requested from the bullion fund of your Institution to that of the United States Mint at Philadelphia.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

December 23, 1897.

Frank A. Leach, Esq.,
Supt. U. S. Mint,
San Francisco, Cal.

Sir:

I have examined and referred to the proper accounting officers of the Department for examination and settlement your bullion accounts for the Quarter ending September 30, 1897, with my approval.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

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December 23, 1897.

Herman Kretz, Esq.,
Superintendent Mint U. S.,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Sir:

The following coins, reserved at your Mint during the Month of December 1897, and forwarded to the Bureau of the Mint for special assay, have been received, viz:

2 S. S. Dollars	,	Del. 305	, 2.00
2 Half Dollars	,	" 306	, 1.00
2 Dimes	,	" 307	, .20
	Total	,	$3.20

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

Similar letter except as noted, to:
Frank A. Leach, Esq.,
Superintendent Mint U. S.,
San Francisco, Cal.

2 Double Eagles	,	Del. 118	, 40.00
2 Dimes	,	" 149	, .20
2 Quar. Dollars	,	" 150	, .50
	Total	,	$40.70

December 23, 1897.

Superintendent Mint U. S.,
Philadelphia, Penna.

Telegram Confirmed

Without you are willing to assume personally the responsibility you will notify persons to whom minor coins are now due, that owing to the suspension of the Chesnut Street National Bank, in which their checks were deposited for

collection, that shipment of the coins cannot be made at present.

R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

December 23, 1897.

Superintendent U. S. Mint,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Have you security from Chestnut Street National Bank for minor coins deposited for collection. Answer.

R. E. Preston,
Director of Mint.

Telegrams Confirmed

December 23, 1897.

Superintendent Mint U. S.,
San Francisco, Cal.

You are authorized and instructed to abolish position of Custodian of Cabinet at your Mint from the first proximo.

R. E. Preston,
Director, Mint.

December 24, 1897.

Herman Kretz, Esq.,
Superintendent Mint U. S.,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Sir:

The following coins reserved at your Mint during the Month of December 1897, and forwarded to the Bureau of the Mint for special assay, have been received, viz:

2 S. S. Dollars	Del. 308	2.00
	Total	$2.00

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston, Director, Mint.

Similar letter except as noted, to: over.

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Frank A. Leach, Esq.,
Superintendent Mint U.S.,
San Francisco, Cal.

2 Half Dollars	Del. 151	1.00
	Total	$1.00

December 27, 1897.

Auditor for the
Treasury Department.

Sir:

I transmit herewith for examination and settlement, the bullion accounts of the U. S. Assay Office at New York for the Quarter ending September 30, 1897, rendered to me for the purpose of adjustment as required by law.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director.

Accounts forwarded November 1, 1897.
" received " 3, 1897.

Similar letter except as noted, to same address:

Salary, Wages and Contingent expense + Assayer + Assay Office at Charlotte + Month + November 30, 1897 + + +

Accounts forwarded Dec. 7, 1897.
" received " 9, 1897.

December 27, 1897.

Andrew Mason, Esq.,
Superintendent Mint U.S.,
New York, N.Y.

Sir:

I have examined and referred to the proper

accounting officers of the Department for examination and settlement, your bullion accounts for the Quarter ending September 30, 1897, with my approval.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

Similar letter except as noted, to:-
W. S. Clanton, Esq.,
Assayer, U. S. Assay Office,
Charlotte, N. C.

Salary, Wages, Monthly

+ Contingent Expenses +
+ November 30, 1897 +

November 27, 1897.

Superintendent, U. S. Mint,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Sir:

Recently a communication was received by the Secretary of the Treasury from the Secretary of War, stating that Major John R. Hoff, Surgeon U. S. Army, had provided a fund, the interest on which to be used in procuring a medal for the most deserving student at the Army Medical School. As this was to be a permanent matter, the Secretary of War requested that the same be treated as a National medal, and this was approved by the Secretary of the Treasury.

I forward you a letter of the Surgeon General of the U. S. Army together with a description of the design of the medal required and have to request that you will instruct the Engraver

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of your Mint to proceed with the manufacture of these dies as early as practicable.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

December 27, 1897.

Frank A. Leach, Esq.,
Superintendent Mint U. S.,
San Francisco, Cal.

Sir:

The following coins, received at your Mint during the Months of December 1897, and forwarded to the Bureau of the Mint for special assay, have been received, viz:

2 Eagles	Del. 119	20.00
Total		$20.00

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

Similar letter except as noted, to:
Overton Cade, Esq.,
Superintendent Mint U.S.,
New Orleans, La.

2 S. S. Dollars	Del. 60	2.00
Total		$2.00

December 27, 1897.

Superintendent Mint U. S.,
New Orleans, La.

Sir:

Owing to the limited amount of both gold and silver bullion on hand at your Mint, it has been decided by the Department to discontinue coinage operations from and

after the thirty-first instant, and to limit the business of your Institution to the receipt and payment of gold deposits, which past experience shows to be small, averaging only $250,000 per annum.

You will therefore dispence with the services of all persons that are not absolutely required. It will, however, be necessary for you to retain for a short period of time, a sufficient number of persons in the Coiner's Department, as well as in the Melter & Refiner's Department to assist in weighing the bullion in the hands of the Coiner and Melter & Refiner, and delivering the same to you, and putting the machinery in such order as will, as far as practicable preserve it.

The Operative Officers will make a complete settlement of their accounts and their wastage will be adjusted the same as at the Annual Settlement.

The clippings delivered to you by the Coiner in settlement of his accounts should be run into the form of bars approximating 1000 ounces, each, if practicable, the weight and fineness of the same being stamped thereon.

Further instructions will be sent you in a few days.

Respectfully yours,

R. E. Preston,

Director of the Mint.

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December 27, 1897.

W. G. Puckett, Esq.,
Assayer U.S. Mint,
Denver, Colo.

Sir:

By direction of the Secretary of the Treasury I enclose herewith an order from the President of the United States dated December 17th, 1897, removing you from office, to take effect upon the appointment and qualification of your successor.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

December 27, 1897.

P. J. Minter, Esq.,
Assayer, U. S. Assay Office,
Deadwood, South Dakota.

Sir:

In reply to your letter of the 22nd instant, you are respectfully informed that until you are otherwise instructed, no deduction will be made by you upon deposits for freight or express charges on bullion to be shipped to the Mint at Philadelphia, as at present the express charges are paid by the Government.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

P. S. I enclose herewith letter of E. H. Sargent & Co., enclosed in your letter of the 15th instant.

December 27, 1897.

P. J. Minter, Esq.,
Assayer, U. S. Assay Office,
Deadwood, So. Dakota.

Sir:

I enclose herewith the account of Henry Troemner of Philadelphia for bullion and assay balances and gold weights shipped you on the 18th instant, receipted in duplicate, and amounting to $1,215.50. Upon receipt of the same you will forward Mr. Troemner a check for the amount.

I also return herewith the account of William A. Lamson and Merrill A. Martin for traveling expenses, which you are authorized to pay and charge the same in your account for December, 1897.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

December 27, 1897.

F. F. Atkinson, Esq.,
C/o W. H. Bellamy,
No. 7, Pine Street, New York.

Sir:

In reply to your letter of the 30th instant, you are respectfully informed that the trial for materials for the minor coins will be made at an early date. I have delayed the matter in hopes that I could have the Coinage Committee of the House of Representatives present, when the trials were made.

You will be duly advised of the

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time so that, if you so desire, you can be present.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

December 27, 1877.

Captain Lewis Merriam,
No. 1225 Madison Avenue,
Baltimore, Maryland.

Sir:

In reply to your letter of the 18th instant, you are respectfully informed that from the statement furnished by the Superintendent of the Mint at Philadelphia, the cost of the medals referred to in your letter was as follows:-

1882: April 24th,
3rd Class Army, Silver, — — $4.09
1883: January 10th,
Army Division, Gold, — — 66.00
1884: May 1st.
Army Department, Gold, — — 60.91
1884: May 1st.
1st C. Army Div. Gold, — — 87.16
1884: May 1st.
3rd. Class Div. Silver, — — 3.98
1884: June 13th.
1st C. Army Skirmish, Gold — — 92.00

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

December 27, 1897.

T. A. Goodwin, Esq.,
Indianapolis, Indiana.

Sir:

In reply to your letter of the 18th instant, you are respectfully informed that the coinage of the three-cent nickel piece was discontinued by the Act of September 26th 1890, and that these coins are redeemed at the Treasury of the United States when ever presented and not paid out again.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

December 27, 1897.

Alex Laird, Esq.,
Agent, The Canadian Bank of Commerce,
16 Exchange Place, New York.

Dear Sir:

In answer to your letter of the 21st instant, I have to refer you to letter on the same subject, from this Bureau dated October 8th, 1897.

I can give no additional information.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

Copy of letter of October 8th 1897, herewith enclosed, and also copy of the table to which the said letter refers.

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December 27, 1897.

Dr. James A. Leydetow,
Suite 1008 Champlain Building,
Chicago, Illinois.

Sir:

In reply to your letter of the 21st instant, you are respectfully informed that the records of the Mint at Philadelphia show a coinage of 220,920 silver dollars in the year 1800. It is impossible to say what number of these pieces are in existence today, but it is very small.

The Government pays no premium for coins, and for the numismatic value of the silver dollar of 1800 you should apply to some numismatist or coin dealer.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

December 27, 1897.

Joseph Wharton, Esq.,
Philadelphia Bank Building,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Sir:

If you can give me the price of pure nickel, I will be under obligations, as I wish to make some calculations which I may possibly require for use before the Coinage Committee.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

December 28, 1897.

To the Honorable
Treasurer of the United States.

Sir:

It is respectfully requested that a transfer be made from the Bullion Fund of the United States Mint at Carson to that of the United States Mint at San Francisco of the sum of Forty Thousand Seven Hundred and Eighty $\frac{93}{100}$ Dollars ($40,780.93) in Gold Coin, being the net value of Bullion heretofore forwarded by the Superintendent of the United States Mint at Carson, as shown by Memorandum No. 3416-3417, dated Dec. 20, 1897, of Gold Bullion deposited at said Mint.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

December 28, 1897.

J. W. Adams, Esq.,
Supt. U. S. Mint,
Carson, Nev.

Sir:

Deposit Memorandum No. 3416-3417, dated Dec. 20, 1897, of Gold Bullion forwarded by you to the United States Mint at San Francisco, Shipment No. 1, dated Dec. 17, 1897, has been received and examined at this Bureau, and the gross value found to be $40,785.21, charges $4.28, and net value $40,780.93. For the latter amount a transfer has be requested from the bullion fund of your Institution, to that of the United States Mint at San Francisco.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston, Director of Mint.

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December 28, 1897.

Herman Kretz, Esq.,
Superintendent Mint U. S.,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Sir:

The following coins, reserved at your Mint during the Month of December 1897, and forwarded to the Bureau of the Mint for special assay, have been received, viz:-

2 S. S. Dollars	Del. 311	2.00
Total		$2.00

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

Similar letter, except as noted, to:-
Frank A. Leach, Esq.,
Superintendent Mint U. S.,
San Francisco, Cal.

2 Half Eagles	Del. 120	10.00
2 Half Dollars	" 152	1.00
Total		$11.00

December 28, 1897.

Telegram
Confirmed

Superintendent U. S. Mint,
Philadelphia, Pa.

You are authorized to come to Washington on matters pertaining to your Mint.

R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

December 28, 1897.

Frank A. Leach, Esq.,
Supt. U. S. Mint,
San Francisco, Cal.

Sir:

Referring to your letter of the 17th instant,

the position of Custodian of the Cabinet of your Mint is hereby abolished. The duties heretofore performed by the person holding this position will hereafter be performed by the Conductors of the Mint.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director.

Confirming telegram of previous date.

December 28, 1877.

G. W. Angus, Esq.,
No. 17 Myrtle Street,
Chicago, Illinois.

Sir:

Your letter of the 24th instant to the Secretary of the Treasury has been referred to this Bureau, and I have to reply that there is no stated weight of the gold and silver bars belonging to the Government. They vary in weight from five ounces to 1,200 ounces, the gold bars, of course, all costing the same, that is $20.67 per ounce fine. The silver bars vary in cost according to the price of silver bullion at the time of the purchase.

The Government buys the copper and nickel for coinage in the shape of blanks or discs, ready to be stamped.

A hundred copper pennies ready to be stamped costs the Government $0.13,65. The minor coins are legal tender to the amount of twenty-five cents.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

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December 28, 1897.

William Stanton Root, Esq.,
No. 1098 Ellicott Square,
Buffalo, New York.

Sir:-

In reply to your letter of the 27th instant, you are respectfully informed that the coinage of one dollar gold pieces was discontinued by the Act of September 26th 1890, and there are none of these coins in the Treasury or the Mint.

I am unable to say where you could obtain the same.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

Copy

December 29, 1897.

Herman Kretz, Esq.,
Supt. U. S. Mint,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Sir:

In relation to the medal of A. H. Hoff, to be known as the "Hoff Memorial Medal", I beg to say it is impossible to make a portrait of the left side of a man's head from a photograph of the right side. I cannot undertake to do that.

I can take the same view as the photograph and make the face looking to the left, if that will suit.

We must ask for further information as to size, and what material is to be used for the medal — as no mention is made of either subject, and as forty dollars is

rather much for silver or bronze, it would lead one to think that gold is intended, which would mean quite a small medal, and therefore before doing anything, we must have further instructions.

Very respectfully,
(Signed) Charles E. Barber,
Engraver.

December 29, 1897.

Herman Kretz, Esq.,
Superintendent Mint U.S.,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Sir:

The following coins, reserved at your Mint during the Month of December 1897, and forwarded to the Bureau of the Mint for special assay, have been received, viz:-

2 Quar. Dollars	Del. 312	.50
Total		$.50

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

Similar letter except as noted, to:-

Overton Cade, Esq.,
Superintendent Mint U.S.,
New Orleans, La.

+	+	+
2 S. S. Dollars	Del. 61	2.00
	Total	2.00

December 29, 1897.

Telegram Confirmed.

Superintendent Mint U.S.,
New Orleans, La.

You are authorized to break seals of any vaults that may be necessary.

R. E. Preston, Director, Mint.

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December 29, 1897.

Entered by Mistake see Mining Book #4

Hon. N. P. Hill,
Denver, Colo.

Please wire me collect your estimate of Colorado's gold & silver product for 1897.

R. E. Preston,
Director of Mint.

December 29, 1897.

Handy & Harman,
32 Nassau Street, New York, N.Y.

Please wire me collect, London's price of silver today.

R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

Telegrams Confirmed

December 29, 1897.

Engineering & Mining Journal,
253 Broadway, New York N.Y.

Will endeavor to telegraph you November deposits tomorrow, cannot do so before.

R. E. Preston,
Director Mint.

December 29, 1897.

George B. Grant, Esq.,
Grant Calculating Machine Co.,
No. 123 So. 11th Street,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Sir:

The two calculating machines purchased from you by this Bureau are in need of some repairs, and I would prefer that they be made by you, if you will undertake to

do this work.

Please advise me if you can do so.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

December 29, 1897.

Scovill Manufacturing Co.,
Waterbury, Connecticut.

Sirs:

I return by registered mail today a medal of award of the World's Columbian Exposition, and will thank you to cause a new medal to be struck in accordance with the following, and forward to this Bureau as early as practicable.

Name as printed.	Correct name
Mrs. William Claire.	Mrs. William Clark.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

December 29, 1897.

Dr. George M. Sternberger,
Surgeon General, U. S. Army,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

Referring to your letter of the fourteenth instant, submitting a design for a "Goff Memorial Medal," I enclose herewith for your information copy of a letter from the Engraver of the Mint at Philadelphia, and I will thank you for further information in regard to this medal, as outlined in the letter enclosed.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

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December 30, 1897.

To the Honorable

Treasurer of the United States.

Sir:

It is respectfully requested that a transfer be made from the Bullion Fund of the United States Mint at Denver, to that of the United States Mint at Philadelphia of the sum of One Hundred and Twenty-seven Thousand Four Hundred and Forty-three $\frac{20}{100}$ Dollars ($127,443.20) in Gold Coin, and Two Hundred and Eighty-three $\frac{94}{100}$ Dollars ($283.94) in Silver Coin, making a total of One Hundred and Twenty-seven Thousand Seven Hundred and Twenty-seven $\frac{14}{100}$ Dollars ($127,727.14) being the net value of Bullion heretofore forwarded by the Assayer in charge of the United States Mint at Denver, as shown by Memorandum No. 61, dated Dec. 24, 1897, of Gold Bullion deposited at said Mint.

Respectfully yours,

R. E. Preston,

Director of the Mint.

Similar letters, except as noted, to same address:-

\+ + + Mint at Denver + Mint at Philadelphia + One Hundred and Twenty-eight Thousand Nine Hundred Seventy-three $\frac{96}{100}$ + ($128,973.96) + Fifty $\frac{05}{100}$ + ($50.05) + total of One Hundred and Twenty-nine Thousand and Twenty-four $\frac{01}{100}$ + ($129,024.01) + Bullion + Assayer + Mint at Denver + Memorandum No. 62 + Dec. 27, 1897 + +

\+ + + Assay Office at Helena + Mint at Philadelphia + Fifty Thousand Five Hundred and Nineteen $\frac{02}{100}$ + ($50,519.02) + Five Hundred and Seventy-six $\frac{51}{100}$ + ($576.51)

+ total of Fifty-one Thousand and Ninety-five 53/100 + ($51,095.53) + Bullion + Assayer + Assay Office at Helena + Memorandum No. 25 + Dec. 27, 1897 + + +

December 27, 1897.

Hon. R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I am advised that considerable Colorado bullion is consigned by private parties directly to Bullion Brokers of New York City, for export use in the arts etc. To enable us to compile the statistics of annual production as accurately as possible, I would be obliged if you could arrange with the New York Assay Office to collect this data from said Brokers with whom that office is doubtless familiar.

Respectfully yours,
(Signed) W. J. Puckett,
Assayer at Denver.

December 27, 1897.

Andrew Mason, Esq.,
Supt. U. S. Assay Office,
New York, N.Y.

Sir:

I enclose herewith a copy of a letter from the Assayer of the United States Mint at Denver, Colorado, and will thank you to furnish the information desired.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

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December 30, 1897.

W. J. Puckett, Esq.,
Assayer U. S. Mint,
Denver, Colo.

Sir:

Deposit Memorandum No. 61, dated Dec. 24, 1897, of Gold Bullion forwarded by you to the United States Mint at Philadelphia, Shipment No. 61 dated Dec. 20, 1897, has been received and examined at this Bureau, and the gross value found to be $127,934.50; charges $207.36, and net value $127,727.14. For the latter amount a transfer has been requested from the bullion fund of your Institution to that of the United States Mint at Philadelphia.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

Similar letters, except as noted, to the following:-

W. J. Puckett, Esq.,
Assayer U. S. Mint,
Denver, Colo.

Deposit Memorandum No. 62 + Dec. 27, 1897 + Mint at Philadelphia, Shipment No. 62 + Dec. 22, 1897 + + + + $129,233.71; + $209.70, + $129,024.01. + + + + +

E. B. Braden, Esq.,
Assayer, U. S. Assay Office,
Helena, Montana.

Deposit Memorandum No. 25 + Dec. 27, 1897 + Mint at Philadelphia, Shipment No. 25 + Dec. 20, 1897 + + + + $51,234.69; + $139.16, + $51,095.53. + + + + +

December 30, 1897.

Herman Kretz, Esq.,
Superintendent U. S. Mint,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Sir:

I enclose herewith for the information of the Engraver a copy of the letter from the Surgeon General, U. S. Army, in relation to the "Hoff Memorial Medal".

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

December 30, 1897.

Herman Kretz, Esq.,
Superintendent Mint U.S.,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Sir:

I will thank you to send me by to-morrow's mail, a statement showing what your pay-roll for wages amounts to, with your present force.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

December 30, 1897.

Herman Kretz, Esq.,
Supt. Mint U. S.,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Sir:

I will thank you to inform me by return mail, the average number of pieces of the following denominations that can

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be adjusted by an adjuster daily:-
Double-eagles, eagles, half-eagles and standard dollars.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

December 30, 1897

Superintendent U. S. Mint,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Sir:

I will thank you to telegraph me early tomorrow your coinage for December, and for the calendar year.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

December 30, 1897.

Superintendent U. S. Mint,
San Francisco, Cal.

Please telegraph early tomorrow your coinage for December and for the calendar year.

R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

Telegrams Confirmed

Similar telegram to:-

Superintendent Mint U.S.,
New Orleans, La.

December 30, 1897.

Superintendent, U. S. Mint,
New Orleans, La.

You will not melt ingots: bars should be stamped actual finenees.

R. E. Preston,
Director, Mint.

December 30, 1897.

R. P. Rothwell, Esq.,
253 Broadway,
New York, N.Y.

Sir:

I enclose herewith statement of deposits of gold and silver at the Mints and Assay Offices during November 1897, as requested by telegram. Figures subject to correction.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

December 30, 1897.

R. P. Rothwell,
253 Broadway,
New York.

Telegram Confirmed

Unrefined gold, one fifty-five thousand three hundred forty-two. Silver, ninety-two thousand one hundred eighty-seven.

R. E. Preston,
Director, Mint.

December 30, 1897.

R. P. Rothwell
253 Broadway, New York.

Telegram Confirmed

Total gold deposits four hundred thirty-six thousand eight hundred and twenty eight standard ounces, total silver seven hundred ninety-three thousand two hundred and eighty-eight standard ounces during November subject to correction.

R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

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December 30, 1897.

George M. Sternberg, Esq.,
Surgeon General U. S. Army,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

Your letter of the 30th instant received. It is not desirable that you should permit a check from Major Zoff, until the medal is finished and ready for delivery.

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

December 30, 1897.

Herman Kretz, Esq.,
Superintendent Mint U. S.,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Sir:

The following coins, received at your Mint during the Months of December 1897, and forwarded to the Bureau of the Mint for special assay, have been received, viz:

2 S. S. Dollars	, Del. 313	,	2.00
2 Dimes	" 314	,	20
Total		,	$2.20

Respectfully yours,
R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

December 31, 1897.

Superintendent U. S. Mint,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Telegram Confirmed

The Coiner's account for medals can only be adjusted by payment of amount due him. The position of Cashier is correct.

R. E. Preston,
Director of the Mint.

End of Entry 235
Volume 85

This is also the final volume of fair copy letters in this series.